



COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES

**REGISTRAR-RECORDER/COUNTY CLERK**

12400 IMPERIAL HWY. – P.O. BOX 1024, NORWALK, CALIFORNIA 90651-1024

**CONNY B. McCORMACK**  
REGISTRAR-RECORDER/COUNTY CLERK

October 28, 2003

The Honorable Board of Supervisors  
County of Los Angeles  
383 Kenneth Hahn Hall of Administration  
500 West Temple Street  
Los Angeles, CA 90012

Dear Supervisors:

**HEARING ON THE REVISION OF  
REGISTRAR-RECORDER/COUNTY CLERK (RR/CC) MARRIAGE LICENSE FEES  
(ALL DISTRICTS) (3 VOTES)**

**IT IS RECOMMENDED THAT YOUR BOARD, AFTER THE PUBLIC HEARING:**

Approve the attached ordinance revising RR/CC fees, to become effective thirty days from the date of board passage, in accordance with Government Code section 25123.

**PURPOSE OF RECOMMENDED ACTION:**

The Department of Registrar-Recorder/County Clerk (RR/CC) provides a variety of services related to elections, recorder and county clerk operations. The purpose of this action is to ensure that the Department receives full cost recovery for administering services as permitted by applicable law. The proposed marriage license fees have been reviewed and approved by the Department of Auditor-Controller. The increases proposed in this request require an ordinance change that has been prepared by County Counsel.

**Implementation of Strategic Plan Goals:**

**Goal No. 1: Service Excellence:** Provide the public with effective delivery of services within the County by implementing strategies related to fiscal responsibility and service integration by consolidating services and adjusting fees to ensure that the Department receives full cost recovery.

**Goal No. 4: Fiscal Responsibility:** Ensure the County's fiscal responsibility by effectively managing and enhancing current fiscal strategies as well as pursuing existing revenue options.

**JUSTIFICATION:**

Government Code section 54985 authorizes a county board of supervisors to set a fee in the amount reasonably necessary to recover the cost of providing any product or service. The fees described below no longer reflect the Department's actual cost and therefore should be revised to include current costs for employee salaries and benefits, supplies and equipment usage.

**REGULAR MARRIAGE LICENSE AND DUPLICATE**

To obtain a marriage license, by law both bride and groom must appear in person at either the RR/CC Headquarters or field offices and complete the application, provide proof of identity and age documents such as a driver's license or passport and pay the required fee of sixty-seven dollars (\$67). Applicants are not required to disclose a blood test, health certificate, proof of California residence, or citizenship to obtain a marriage license. The marriage license is valid for 90 days for use throughout the State. Applicants who lose or destroy their marriage license may apply for a duplicate license for a fee of five dollars (\$5).

County Code section 2.32.100 was last revised in 1995 and no longer reflects current costs. Upon review of the fee by the Auditor-Controller, it has been determined that the appropriate fee for a regular marriage license is seventy dollars (\$70) and the fee for issuing a duplicate regular marriage license is twelve dollars (\$12).

**CONFIDENTIAL MARRIAGE LICENSE AND DUPLICATE**

Applicants living together as husband and wife may request a confidential marriage license, which upon being recorded by the County of Los Angeles, will remain unavailable to the public with the exception of specified conditions. A confidential marriage license must be obtained by the bride and groom, who must appear in person at either the RR/CC Headquarters or field offices and complete the appropriate application, provide proof of identity and age documents such as a driver's license or passport and pay the required fee of sixty-nine dollars (\$69). Applicants are not required to disclose a blood test, health certificate, proof of California residence, or citizenship to obtain a marriage

license. The marriage license is valid for 90 days for use in Los Angeles County only. Applicants who lose or destroy their marriage license may apply for a duplicate license for a fee of five dollars (\$5).

County Code section 2.32.100 was last revised in 1995 and no longer reflects current costs. Upon review of the fee, it has been determined that the appropriate fee for a confidential marriage license is seventy dollars (\$70) and the fee for issuing a duplicate confidential marriage license is twelve dollars (\$12).

**FISCAL IMPACT:**

Approval of these revised fees will increase Departmental revenue by approximately \$79,000 for the period January 1, 2004 through June 30, 2004, and will not affect net County cost (NCC). It should be noted that \$37.00 of each Regular Marriage License and \$32.00 of each Confidential Marriage License are paid out as surcharges to both the State of California and other County Departments and are therefore not reflected in revenue totals.

**FINANCING:**

The proposed fees will not affect the Departmental budgeted NCC.

**FACTS AND PROVISIONS/LEGAL REQUIREMENTS:**

The Department of Registrar-Recorder/County Clerk is requesting approval for the proposed fee increases. Government Code section 54985 provides that a county board of supervisors shall have the authority to increase a fee in the amount necessary to recover the cost of providing any product or service. County Counsel has prepared the attached required ordinances that incorporate the proposed fees and revisions.

Prior to adopting an ordinance, resolution, or other legislative enactment adopting a new fee or approving an increase in an existing fee, Government Code section 66018 requires a local agency to hold a public hearing, at which oral or written presentations can be made. The Board of Supervisors' Executive Office, in accordance with section 6062(a) of the Government Code, published an official notice of the time and place of said meeting, including a general explanation of the fees to be established or revised.

All fees have been reviewed and approved by the Auditor.

The Honorable Board of Supervisors  
2003  
Page 4

**IMPACT ON CURRENT SERVICES:**

The proposed fees will not impact current services provided by the Department.

Respectfully submitted,

CONNY B. McCORMACK  
Registrar-Recorder/County Clerk

CMC:KC:ds:eb

Attachments

c: Chief Administrative Office  
Executive Officer, Board of Supervisors  
Auditor-Controller  
County Counsel